

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 EB-11 OMB-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 IO-14

NIC-01 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 065894

R 221240Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 722

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TAL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, EG, IS, UR, US

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PRESS ATTENTION TO US ROLE IN EGYPTIAN-
ISRAELI AGREEMENT

1. OVER PAST TWO WEEKS HUNGARIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN
SUSTAINED DAILY FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO SECY KISSINGER'S
EFFORTS TO WORK OUT MID-EAST SETTLEMENT. REPORTING
HAS BEEN MAJOR AND FACTUAL AND EFFORTS OF SECRETARY
HAVE BEEN PORTRAYED IN FAVORABLE MANNER. ON JAN 18
PARTY DAILY "NEPSZABADSAG" FRONT-PAGED PRESIDENT NIXON'S
REMARKS REGARDING POSITIVE ROLE PLAYED BY USG IN WORKING
OUT ACCORD. TREATMENT, INCLUDING PRES. STATEMENT, IN
CONSIDERABLE CONTRAST TO WHAT WE UNDERSTAND SOVIET
TREATMENT TO HAVE BEEN.

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2. FOLLOWING THIS CONSISTENTLY FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR OUR EFFORTS, FIRST EDITORIAL APPEARED ON JAN 20 IN "NEPSZABADSAG" DESIGNED TO PUT MORE FAVORABLE CAST ON SOVIET ROLE AND TO DILUTE CREDIT PREVIOUS ARTICLES GAVE TO US. EDITORIAL NO DOUBT RESULT ESTABLISHMENT SOVIET POLICY LINE. EVEN THIS "BALANCING" TREATMENT LEAVES US ROLE IN GOOD LIGHT. WRITTEN BY FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR VARNAI, ARTICLE SOUGHT TO SHOW THAT MID-EAST AGREEMENT IN LARGE PART RESULTED FROM EAST-WEST DETENTE AND "SOCIALIST" ASSISTANCE TO ARAB WORLD. VARNAI CLAIMED THAT IN REACHING AGREEMENT "KEY ROLE WAS PLAYED BY MULTIFACETED SUPPORT BY USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO ARABS". HE SAID THAT MID-EAST SITUATION PROVED THAT STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WHEN IT IS DEPENDENT ON SUPPORT FROM USSR.

3. VARNAI WROTE THAT MID-EAST SITUATION FIRST "ACID TEST" OF DETENTE FOLLOWING SOVIET-US AGREEMENTS, AND OUTCOME WAS SUCCESSFUL. HE CITED THIS AS PROOF THAT FORCES OF DETENTE STRONGER THAN OPPOSITION. EDITORIAL IN POLITICAL DAILY "MAGYAR HIRLAP" SIMILARLY CLAIMED THAT JAN 18 AGREEMENT "SHOWS WORKABILITY OF US-USSR MUTUAL EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT".

4. MAGYAR HIRLAP WARNED READERS NOT TO BE MISLED BY FACT THAT SECY KISSINGER IN FRONT OF MID-EAST DIPLOMATIC EFFORT, BECUASE US ALLEGEDLY HAD TO "SOFTEN-UP" ISRAEL IN ORDER TO GET COMPROMISE, AND US MOST COMPETENT TO DO THIS. "NEPSZABADSAG" OPINED THAT CONTINUED US MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL HAD PROVEN COSTLY TO US OIL INTERESTS AND USG RELATIONS WITH ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES. THEREFORE, "US LEADERSHIP WOKE UP TO FACT THAT THERE NO LONGER WAS COMPLETE IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US". VARNAI ALLEGED THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IS BEING USED IN ATTEMPT TO RESTORE US INFLUENCE IN ARAB COUNTRIES.

5. TOTAL PICTURE OF US EFFORTS TO RESOLVE MID-EAST SITUATION IS HIGHLY FAVORABLE AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS HUNGARIANS HAVE PRAISED EFFORTS OF SECRETARY. SUNDAY'S EDITORIALS, HOWEVER, REPRESENT HUNGARIAN NECESSITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO GIVE USSR CREDIT FOR FAVORABLE OUTCOME. THEY PROBABLY ALSO BELIEVE THAT SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ARABS REALLY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING US PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ISRAELIS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPTIANS.
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